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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/871,335	05/31/2001	Douglas B. Quine	F-182	9597
919	7590	09/19/2005	EXAMINER	
PITNEY BOWES INC. 35 WATERVIEW DRIVE P.O. BOX 3000 MSC 26-22 SHELTON, CT 06484-8000			BASS, JON M	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3639	

DATE MAILED: 09/19/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/871,335	QUINE, DOUGLAS B.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Jon Bass	3639	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 31 May 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-28 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-28 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. This is in response to the communication filed May 31, 2001. Claims 1-28 are pending in this application.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

2. **Claims 1-28 are rejected** under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Kevin Hunter, (US Patent No: 5,243,654) hereinafter referenced as Hunter.

As Per Claim 1:

Hunter discloses a mail processing system, comprising, [{col.2, line 61}; metering system]:

a plurality of sensors, [{fig 4, 210}, sensor] coupled to the mail processing system, [{col.2, line 61}; metering system] for collecting system data, [{col.6, lines 58-59}; connected to receive data];

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a plurality of computer input means, [{col.4, lines 44-45}; combination has been input into the meter], said computer input means capable of receiving input information, [{col.6, lines 58-59}; processor connected to receive data];

a processor system communicatively coupled to the mail processing system, the processor system receiving said system data and generating feedback signals, [{fig 4, 202, 220}; processor, meter]; and [{col.6, lines 63-65}, sensors connected to meter] and [{col.6, lines 58-59; processor connected to receive data] and

a communication system coupled to said processor system for communicating said feedback signals to at least a local user or a remote user, [{col.4, lines 35-40}, represents exchange of data between data center].

As Per Claim 2:

Hunter discloses the apparatus wherein said processor system further comprises, [{fig 7, 326}; processor]:

a database for storing predetermined sets of system data, [{col.2, lines 65-67}, mechanism for storing information]; and

a comparator for comparing the system data received from said sensors with the predetermined sets of system data to generate feedback signals, [{fig 5B, 268}; compare with current readings],

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As Per Claim 3:

Hunter discloses the apparatus wherein said communication system is a wireline communication system, [{fig 4}, utility system in accordance with the invention].

As Per Claim 4:

Hunter discloses the apparatus wherein said communication system is a wireless communication system, [{fig 4}, utility system in accordance with the invention].

As Per Claim 5:

Hunter discloses the apparatus wherein said system data comprising preventative maintenance schedules, and performance statistics, [{fig 2, and col.4, lines 42-43}; software routine that controls the operation of meter].

As Per Claim 6:

Hunter discloses the apparatus wherein the system data stored in said processor system is variable, [{fig 1, 22, 28}; processor, non-volatile memory].

As Per Claim 7:

Hunter discloses the apparatus wherein said feedback signals include improvement recommendations, [{col.8, lines 18-21}; call data center, receive data, determine if valid, error message is displayed].

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As Per Claim 8:

Hunter discloses a mail processing system, comprising, [{col.2, line 61}; metering system]:

a plurality of sensors for measuring object data and system data, [{col.7, lines 35-36}, data receive from sensor];

a computer system, [{fig 7, 320}; computer] communicatively coupled to said mail processing system, [{fig 7, 326}; processor], the computer system receiving said object data and said system data, said computer system further comprising, [{fig 1, 42}; customer database]:

a database system for storing predetermined sets of object data and system data, respectively, [{fig 1, 42}; customer database];

a comparator for comparing the measured object data and system data with predetermined sets of object data and system data, respectively, and proactively generating feedback signals in the event of a mismatch in the comparison step, [{fig 5B, 268}, compare with current readings]; and

a communication system coupled to said computer system for communicating the feedback signals to at least one of a remote user or a local user, [{col.4, lines 35-40}, represents exchange of data between data center].

As Per Claim 9:

Hunter discloses the apparatus wherein said communication system is a wireline communication system, [{col.4, lines 35-40}; represents exchange of data between data

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center].

As Per Claim 10:

Hunter discloses the apparatus wherein said communication system is a wireless communication system, [{fig 4}, utility system in accordance with the invention].

As Per Claim 11:

Hunter discloses the apparatus wherein said system data comprises data related to preventative maintenance schedules, and performance statistics, [{fig 2, and col.4, lines 42-43}; software routine that controls the operation of meter].

As Per Claim 12:

Hunter discloses the apparatus wherein said object data comprises data related to business rules, postal rates, and customer profiles, [{fig 1, 42}; customer database].

As Per Claim 13:

Hunter discloses the apparatus wherein the system data stored in said processor system is variable, [{fig 1, 22, 28}; processor, non-volatile memory].

As Per Claim 14:

Hunter discloses the apparatus wherein said feedback signals include improvement recommendations, [{col.8, lines 18-21}; call data center, receive data, determine if valid, error message is displayed].

As Per Claim 15:

Hunter discloses the apparatus wherein said feedback signals include cost savings information, [{col.6, lines 65-67}; sensor provides to processor data information].

As Per Claim 16:

Hunter discloses a method of proactively performing mail processing functions in a mail processing system, the method comprising, [{fig 2}; program]:

monitoring at least one parameter related to said mail processing system, [{col.3, lines 31-32}; verifying the meter reading information];

receiving the monitored parameter by a computer system, [{col.3, lines 27-28}; receiving meter reading information];

comparing the monitored parameter with a reference value to determine a mismatch in said comparison step, [{fig 5B, 268}; compare with current readings];

triggering an output signal in the event of a mismatch, [{col.3, lines 1-2}, output mechanism]; and

communicating said output signal to at least one of a local user or a remote user, [{col.4, lines 35-40}, represents exchange of data between data center].

As Per Claim 17:

Hunter discloses the method wherein: the reference value is stored in a database system, [{col.3, lines 3-4}; storage mechanism].

As Per Claim 18:

Hunter discloses the method of wherein said database system is located within said computer system, [{col.4, lines 26-28}]; data center includes computer connected to memory containing customer database].

As Per Claim 19:

Hunter discloses the method of wherein said database system is located remote from said computer system, [{col.4, lines 26-28}]; data center includes computer connected to memory containing customer database].

As Per Claim 20:

Hunter discloses the method wherein said communication step is performed using a wireline communication system, [{col.4, lines 35-40}]; represents exchange of data between data center].

As Per Claim 21:

Hunter discloses the method wherein said communication step is performed using a wireless communication system, [{col.4, lines 35-40}]; represents exchange of data between data center].

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As Per Claim 22:

Hunter discloses the method of further comprises: monitoring at least one parameter related to mail objects processed by said mail processing system, [{{fig 5A}}, controls the meter system, review description];

and monitoring at least one parameter related to said mail processing system, [{{fig 5B}}, controls the meter system, review description].

As Per Claim 23:

Hunter discloses the apparatus wherein parameters related to mail processing system comprises preventative maintenance schedules, and performance statistics, [{{fig 2, and col.4, lines 42-43}}; software routine that controls the operation of meter].

As Per Claim 24:

Hunter discloses the method wherein parameters related to mail objects comprise business rules, postal rates, and customer profiles, [{{fig 1, 42}}; customer database].

As Per Claim 25:

Hunter discloses the method wherein: said reference values stored in said database comprise predetermined mail processing system values and predetermined mail object values, respectively, [{{fig 6, 300, 304}}; review and verify I.D. information, update records].

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As Per Claim 26:

Hunter discloses the method of claim 25, further comprises: varying said reference values stored in said database system, [{col.3, lines 3-4}; storage mechanism].

As Per Claim 27:

Hunter discloses the method wherein said feedback signals include improvement recommendations, [{col.8, lines 18-21}; call data center, receive data, determine if valid, error message is displayed].

As Per Claim 28:

Hunter discloses the method wherein said feedback signals include cost savings information, [{col.6, lines 65-67}; sensor provides to processor data information]..

Conclusion

Any concerns in regard to this communication, the examiner **Jon Bass** can be reached at **(571) 272-6905** between the hours of **9-6pm Monday through Friday**. The fax number for the establishment where the application is being process is **(571) 273-8300**.

If an attempt to reach the examiner is unsuccessful for any reason, the examiner's immediate supervisor, **John Hayes** can be reached at **(571) 272-6708**.

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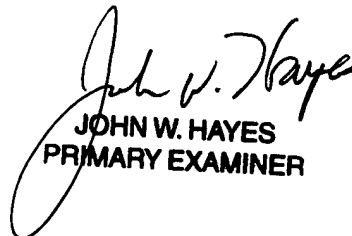
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Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

C/O Technology Center 3600

Washington, D.C. 20231


JOHN W. HAYES
PRIMARY EXAMINER

